



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: August 2, 2004, 1:00 p.m.  
Week Ending: August 1, 2004  
CWP WA-CW3104

## Spring Wheat and Barley Harvest Ahead of Schedule Warm Temperatures Caused Problems for Potato Crop

### Field Crops

Winter wheat and spring cereal harvest was progressing with the hot, dry weather. Lincoln County producers in lower elevations had almost completed harvest, while producers in higher elevations just started. Reports of scab and internal brown spots were seen in some Skagit County potato fields. Some Franklin County potato producers also reported disease problems in their potato crops. Christmas tree growers continued top work on Noble fir and reported that last week's extreme temperatures resulted in tree leaders hardening off earlier than normal. Pastures and hayfields were showing stress from the dry, hot conditions.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 2 % very poor, 14% poor, 54% fair, and 30% good. Dairies were working around the clock to keep grass irrigated.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Sweet corn fields in Grays Harbor County have all tasseled. In Skagit County, apple maggot adults were being caught in monitoring traps for the third week in a row. Lentils were being harvested in Spokane County. Blueberries continued to be harvested with excellent yields being reported in Thurston and Grays Harbor Counties. Warm season vegetables, such as cucumbers, tomatoes, and eggplants, were being harvested in Franklin County.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	6.9

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	11	45	44	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	22	44	34	0
Subsoil	6	36	58	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	11	49	40	0
Irrigation Water	0	5	95	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	1	6	93	0
Hay & Roughage	0	5	88	7

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2003	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	24	3	17	11
Winter Wheat Harvested	35	15	38	30
Barley Harvested	20	2	15	11
Potatoes Harvested	17	16	22	15
Corn Silage Harvested	1	0	1	0
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	1	1	0	0
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	94	93	100	96
Dry Peas Harvested	20	8	27	16
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	91	80	98	95
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	36	12	19	20

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	9	28	54	7
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	4	96	0
Spring Wheat Dryland	2	8	37	50	3
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	4	92	4
Barley Dryland	2	6	34	51	7
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	95	5
Potatoes	0	1	7	91	1
Corn	0	0	2	97	1
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	1	99	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Grays Harbor:** Another week with no rain continued to exacerbate drought conditions across the rural landscape. Cooler temperatures were welcomed by almost all ag producers who suffered under last week's oppressive heat. Sweet corn fields were all tasseled out with some growers predicting an earlier than usual harvest season. Blueberry harvest peaked with growers reporting both excellent fruit quality and yields. Christmas tree growers continued top work on Noble fir and reported that last week's extreme temperatures resulted in tree leaders hardening off earlier than normal. The county's single field of commercial green peas were harvested with disappointing yields due to weed competition. The quality was very good, however. Livestock producers were pulling the noxious weed Tansy Ragwort in hayfields and pastures. Greenhouse tomato growers struggled to keep up with harvest demands. Home gardeners feasted on green beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, potatoes and onions fresh from the garden. Conditions throughout the county remained "kinder dry" with fire danger at a critical level.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** The dry weather continued as farmers struggled to keep irrigated crops watered. Pastures that normally dry up have done so. Cooler temperatures were welcomed after having record heat during the latter part of July.

**Skagit:** Conditions were very dry. Field operations were throwing up clouds of dust. All farms with irrigation capabilities were using it on cucumbers, berries, potatoes, tree fruit, etc. Scab and internal brown spots were seen in some potato fields. Aphid populations were very high in crucifer and other crops. Apple maggot adults were being caught in monitoring traps for the third week in a row.

**Snohomish/King:** Another dry week with no rain.

Unirrigated crops and pastures suffered from reduced moisture. Blueberry harvest continued.

**Snohomish/North King:** Temperatures were closer to normal much to the relief of everyone. Pastures and hayfields were showing stress from the dry hot conditions. Dairies had their big guns working around the clock to keep grass and corn fields irrigated. The threat of grass and forest fires had everyone on alert. Fruit trees were loaded and required support of their branches. Vegetable, berry and flower harvests were bountiful and a challenge to keep up with.

**Thurston:** Cooler temperatures arrived at the end of the week providing a welcome relief to ag producers who sweltered under last week's stifling heat wave. Livestock producers continued hay harvest under nearly ideal curing conditions. Blueberry harvest continued in full swing with excellent yields being reported. The only field of commercial green peas were harvested with poor yields reported due to weed competition. The entire 60 acre crop was grown for the organic market which did not allow herbicide use. Christmas tree growers continued to report heat scorch damage on both Grand and Noble fir from last week's furnace like conditions. Turf grass growers continued to cultivate "bone dry" soils in preparation for seeding the next crop. Home gardeners enjoyed a bountiful harvest of tomatoes, green beans, potatoes and cucumbers. The entire county remained enormously dry with fire danger at a critical level.

**Whatcom:** Winter wheat harvest started. Raspberry harvest finishes this week. Blueberry harvest continued. Temperatures were warm in the 80's. Some of the potatoes were sprayed for the de-vine process. Most of the corn had tasseled.

## Central

**Benton:** Harvest continued in the county. Weather conditions continued to go above 90 degrees. The third cutting for alfalfa hay was under way.

**Benton (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Hot weather continued and irrigators were having a hard time keeping up. Soft fruit and wheat were being harvested.

**Chelan/Douglas:** Wheat harvest was in full swing. Several producers were reporting low test weights. Conditions were hot and smoky due to fires in Chelan County.

**Franklin:** More warm dry weather. Potato harvest continued. Winter and spring wheat were being harvested, as was early sweet corn. Soft fruits were being picked. Warm season vegetables such as cucumbers, tomatoes, and eggplants, were being harvested. Second cutting of alfalfa

was complete and third cutting was underway. Warm temperatures caused some disease problems to show up in potato crops.

**Grant:** Sweet corn harvest continued. Second cutting of timothy hay was underway.

**Kittitas:** Continued hot weather was creating dry conditions for range and pastures. Irrigation water supplies remained stable.

**Okanogan:** Hot and dry.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from three to fourteen degrees above normal, with no precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Another hot week allowed for harvest to progress nicely, and irrigated crops to progress to maturity. Average or a little better yields were being reported.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Harvest was progressing well with hot, dry weather. Some producers in the lower elevations were nearing completion and producers in the higher elevations were just starting harvest. Yield reports had been good for most producers.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Harvest of Peas and Lentils started this week in the Southern part of the county. A few combines tried winter wheat and some continued to run and some where shut down. More were expected to start this week. Some early seeded barley was also harvested. Yield reports were average with some damage due to lack of rainfall in the later

part of maturity. Test weight was the factor that most producers were disappointed with. Only time will tell what harvest will yield.

**Stevens:** The area experienced more hot and dry weather during the past week. Grain harvest started in some areas of the county. Hay producers worked at putting up second cuttings under favorable conditions.

**Walla Walla:** Hot and dry weather continued. Harvest progressed well, with many reports of good yields.

**Whitman:** Weather was moderate this past week. As harvest moderated in the western part of the county, it continued to build in the eastern part of the county.

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# Weekly Weather Statistics

August 2, 2004

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	52	78	66	3	113	22	43	17	0.00	-0.28	0	27.79	-7.06	80	140
Everett	54	83	67	4	122	24	52	24	0.00	-0.27	0	27.72	-7.44	79	150
Hoquiam	54	68	60	-1	75	-2	7	-7	0.00	-0.22	0	61.41	-5.06	92	177
Kelso	59	90	74	9	166	61	96	61	0.00	-0.21	0	31.09	-14.04	69	122
Olympia	48	88	67	4	123	25	53	25	0.00	-0.20	0	44.00	-5.36	89	153
Sea-Tac	55	85	69	4	136	24	66	24	0.00	-0.16	0	32.98	-3.12	91	135
Shelton	52	88	69	4	133	21	63	21	0.00	-0.19	0	60.22	-3.48	95	150
Tacoma	52	86	69	5	137	32	67	32	0.00	-0.21	0	30.63	-8.39	78	133
Vancouver	54	88	71	6	149	42	79	38	0.00	-0.20	0	29.78	-10.36	74	145
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	57	96	79	10	203	70	133	70	0.00	-0.07	0	7.68	-0.88	90	87
Omak	58	99	78	11	200	68	130	67	0.00	-0.18	0	10.72	-3.32	76	71
Stampede Pass	52	78	66	10	111	62	41	34	0.00	-0.29	0	70.30	-8.82	89	165
Wenatchee	64	96	80	7	213	40	143	43	0.00	-0.07	0	9.17	1.27	116	78
Yakima AP	54	97	77	7	191	44	121	44	0.00	-0.07	0	6.75	-0.83	89	69
NORTHEAST															
Colville	52	96	74	7	173	51	103	48	0.00	-0.21	0	8.91	-11.26	44	75
Deer Park	45	95	70	-1	141	1	71	1	0.00	-0.14	0	17.70	-0.08	100	125
Spokane AP	56	94	75	5	175	35	105	35	0.00	-0.14	0	13.26	-2.55	84	109
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	60	97	79	3	201	19	131	19	0.00	-0.07	0	5.13	-1.84	74	65
Moses Lake	56	97	76	-1	182	0	112	0	0.00	-0.07	0	5.12	-1.85	73	64
Quincy	61	97	79	7	201	47	131	47	0.00	-0.07	0	5.11	-2.35	68	58
Ritzville	54	97	75	5	175	35	105	35	0.00	-0.07	0	10.23	-0.67	94	74
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	63	101	82	4	227	24	157	24	0.00	-0.07	0	6.41	0.23	104	66
Pasco	56	101	79	4	203	21	133	21	0.00	-0.07	0	7.71	0.58	108	79
Pullman	43	91	68	2	127	8	57	8	0.00	-0.14	0	15.25	-4.97	75	104
Whitman Miss.	52	100	77	6	191	37	121	37	0.00	-0.14	0	16.39	3.23	125	115
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	50	97	73	3	163	16	93	16	0.00	-0.21	0	13.51	-11.19	55	105
Lewiston ID	61	103	81	6	217	37	147	41	0.00	-0.14	0	11.57	-0.12	99	97

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2003

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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